



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TURKMENISTAN

FIRST PERSON Business Skills Lead to Success in Life

Participation in the USAID-funded Junior Achievement Program builds path to job success



“I have learned a lot from the Junior Achievement programs: from economics and business fundamentals, to leadership skills, to substantiating my decisions. I wish more young people can go through Junior Achievement programs.”

- Batyr Bekiev

Batyr Bekiev is a textile store manager at the Saparmurat Turkmenbashi Textile Enterprise. The young man credits USAID-funded Junior Achievement programs for being a successful manager. “I’m grateful to Junior Achievement for guiding me in the search for opportunities and decision making,” says Batyr.

Batyr first participated in the Junior Achievement program in 1996. At that time he was a freshman at the Department of Economics, Turkmen Polytechnic Institute. A school of business operating at the Institute offered Junior Achievement programs – elective courses in market economics and business development. Batyr eagerly grabbed at this opportunity and soon got so interested in the USAID-funded programs that he became one of the founders of Junior Achievement project in Turkmenistan (now JA Turkmenistan, Member Nation of Junior Achievement Worldwide).

According to Batyr, participation in the Junior Achievement programs proved very useful when he got drafted to the army upon university graduation. Batyr’s leadership abilities led to his appointment as an Assistant to the Chief of Headquarters Staff during his first year of service. After completing service in the army, the principles acquired through the USAID-funded programs – leadership, creativity and outstanding performance- continued to guide Batyr through his job search and career development. Batyr found a job as a contract specialist at the Export Department of the Saparmurat Turkmenbashi Textile Enterprise. Before too long, his innovative ideas and skillful furthering of company’s business earned the young specialist a position of a textile store manager.

Launched in Turkmenistan in 1995 with funding from USAID, Junior Achievement programs teach young people applied economics and entrepreneurship skills. Theoretical concepts are enriched the experiencing of organizing and operating a ‘student company’ and by computer management simulations. Students examine the economic system, explore business operations, study the emerging global economy and acquire knowledge and skills necessary to function as competent citizens, workers and consumers. Students also run their own companies and discover how effective management and hard work are keys to business success.